

Video Teleconferencing Update

Presented to the Information Resource Management
Working Committee meeting 20 May 1998

by
Grover Boutin

Areas of Discussion

- Video teleconferencing(VTC) equipment
- VTC network options and issues
- VTC bridging options and issues
- VTC management

Group System Equipment

- Flagship = CLI Gallery 225 (384kbs)

SCVTS Codec & IMUX

Costly, failure prone, high overhead site requirements

- Recommendation - REPLACE

Desktop Equipment

- Flagship = Picturetel Live 200 (128kbs)
Low cost for quality, big installed base,
meets current requirements
Nearing end of product cycle, early
models don't integrate well
- Recommendation - Continue to acquire but
expect limited life cycle, new
technologies encouraged

IP Equipment

- No current flagship
- Recommendation - New technology investigation encouraged, keep IRMWC up to date on findings

VLBR/POTS Equipment

- No current flagship
- Recommendation - Acquire for specific applications or evaluation, expect new standards to emerge w/o backward compatibility

VTC Networks

- Government/DoD wide networks
- Dedicated USACE VTC network
- VTC application on CEAP network
- RBOC/LEC provided VTC network
- Very low bit rate/Plain old telephone system
- Internet

Government/DoD Networks

- FTS2000

 - SCVTS - Expensive, relatively closed

 - VON BRI - Less expensive, good off net interface

- DISN DCTN - Very expensive, poor off net interface, high staffing, great quality

- DISN LBRV - Cost effective, new contract, some negative Corps impacts

Dedicated USACE VTC Network

- Very hard to size
- High local workload
- Would require minimum usage
- Not currently under consideration

VTC Application on CEAP

- Indeterminate workload
- High operational overhead
- More closed than open
- Is a future possibility (probably at least 18 months out) suggestions welcome

RBOC/LEC, Other LD Carriers

- Good cost projections due to competition
- VTC requirements better understood
- Poor interface with Govt/DoD nets
- Can be integrated with other solutions

Very Low Bit Rate / POTS

- Widest availability
- Quality is poor cousin to higher speed
- Will find its own niche

Internet

- Will stress current architecture
- Being continually evaluated

Networking Recommendations

- Terminate FTS2000 SCVTS service (this will require equipment replacement)
- Acquire FTS2000 VON BRI for group systems
- Use RBOC/LEC/POTS solutions for specific requirements
- Plan for rapid changes & limited life cycles

VTC Bridging

- Government/DoD wide contracts
- Exclusive USACE bridge service contract
- Corps owned bridge - Corps operated
 - Vendor operated
- Other government bridges
- Vendor provided bridging as required

Government/DoD Bridge Contracts

- FTS2000 - Integrated billing, mystery costs, off net billing problems, limited off net interface, in place, no minimums
- DISN - New service, available soon, some transition pain, good interface with DoD network sites, unknown costs

USACE Bridge Contract

- Requirements difficult to define and meet
- Would probably require minimum usage
- Has high projected costs based on current USACE usage

Corps Owned Bridge

- Size and option requirements not clear
- Obsolescence factor very high
- Would meet Corps requirements on a first priority basis
- Expensive

COE Bridge - COE Operated

- Contrary to current staffing realities
- Would need 18 x 6 availability
- High network access requirements
- Billing issues - metered/site license
- Positive COE control

COE Bridge - Vendor Operated

- Guaranteed availability
- Known requirements are expensive given current and projected COE usage

Other Government Bridges

- AMC, APG, HSC, DHHS, others
 - ◆ Level/quality of service not COE friendly
 - ◆ First come / first served
 - ◆ Variable costs
 - ◆ Only solution for some calls
 - ◆ Very high coordination effort required

Vendor Bridging Service

- Variety of services/options
- Competitive pricing
- Latest technologies
- Lots of players - active playing field
- Poor Govt/DoD network interface
- Variety of billing issues

All Bridging Services

- Require certification of each VTC end point prior to participating in a multipoint call

Bridging Recommendation

- DISN video bridge service following review of costs
- Certify with multiple bridge service providers
- Use IMPACT card or CT for as required bridge service
- Retain FTS2000 bridging option for routine intra COE calls

VTC Management

- Certify all VTC end points and locally schedule multipoint calls with assistance available from CTX
- Develop and regularly perform equipment & network operational tests
- Allow new technology to be implemented on an enterprise wide basis, after the IRMWC has 'blessed' it and before selling it locally

VTC Management, con't

- Insure trained support is available
- CTX will gather cost and usage data
- Report problems/call failures to CTX
- Follow DoD acquisition and standards rules
- Info and directories will be behind COE HP
- *Mute your mics when not talking!*

See you on TV